

"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

Eye National Tribune

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.
ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR.
IN ADVANCE.
Foreign postage, \$1.00 in addition to subscription price.
Canada postage, 50c in addition to subscription price.

ADVERTISING RATES.—Flat.
20c per square line for display.
50c per square line for classified columns.
50c per square line for reading notices.
Advertising can be canceled at any time.
30 days before date of issue.
No discounts for time or space.
Columns 2 1/4 inches wide; 2 1/4 inches long; seven columns to the page.
Sample copies mailed on request.

Entered at Washington, D. C. Post Office as second-class matter.
JOHN McELROY, Editor.

Office: 519 Thirteenth Street N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C., DEC. 24, 1908.

NOTICE.
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The doctors have at last discovered some use for the troublesome vermiform appendix and now propose to use it as a duct by which to introduce medicines directly into the lower intestines.

The work of electrifying our railroads seems to be going on quite rapidly. The New York, New Haven & Hartford has applied for permission to electrify the Harlem & Port Chester Railroad, which is a most important step in this direction.

Many thousands who laughed over Bill Nye's genial humor will be gratified to hear that Dr. J. M. Dancer, Hendersonville, N. C., and a lifelong friend of the humorist, is having a monument put over Nye's grave at Buck Shoals. It will be a large block of rough granite, with an epitaph in bronze. The block will weigh four tons.

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals sitting in Philadelphia has decided that Harry K. Thaw, the nasty little murderer, shall continue to be confined in the hospital for the criminally insane at Matawan, N. Y., and has affirmed the action of the court below in quashing the writ of habeas corpus sued out last summer. The only recourse of Thaw's attorneys now is the Supreme Court of the United States, but it is doubtful if they will take the case there.

There is not a little alarm shouted by interested classes at the rapid spread of Prohibition in Ohio will soon deprive the State of more than \$1,000,000 revenue it now obtains from the saloons. Undoubtedly this will go if the saloons do, but all experience shows that few things enrich a community more quickly than stopping the waste of money for liquor. That rapidly becomes real property, and the State of Ohio will soon have many more millions of dollars' revenue from the increase of wealth in the State.

Tullio Larrinaga, Resident Commissioner of Porto Rico, has begun an active canvass to impose a duty of five cents a pound on all coffee imported into the United States. He says that while this will add only one-tenth of a cent to the cost of a cup of coffee, it will put approximately \$50,000,000 a year into the Treasury and will be of the greatest possible benefit to Porto Rico and our other insular possessions. At present we are buying most of our coffee from Brazil, which buys comparatively little of us in return.

The death of Commander Shaver, of the Department of Ohio, G. A. R., advances to the position of Commander the Senior Vice Commander, Dr. Geo. A. Hall, of Lima, Dr. Hall has been prominent in the G. A. R. all his life, has served on the Council of Administration, and has held every elective office in the gift of his Post. He is well known in Ohio as a Republican leader, particularly in the Fourth Congressional District, where he was a lieutenant for Senator Sheridan and later for Senator Marcus A. Hanna. He served two terms as Postmaster of Lima.

Acute trouble at the pie counter has developed in Kentucky. Senator-elect William O. Bradley strongly recommends N. A. Moore for Postmaster at Paris, and Moore has the support of a large number of citizens, but Bradley was an active Fairbanks man and tried to carry the State for the Vice President. Therefore, on the recommendation of the Republican Chairman, the President has reappointed J. L. Early, who as Postmaster. Early was an original Fairbanks man and did his best to counteract Bradley. As Bradley is not yet in the Senate, all that he can do is to request his Republican colleagues in the Senate to hold up the nomination until he can qualify as Senator and oppose it in person.

The joke as to infant industries that should have grown up long ago receives a severe jolt ever so often. Some years ago a woman in Oshkosh, with more than the usual resourcefulness of her sex, saw that there was an opportunity to get her daily bread and oleomargarine by making files for fish hooks. It was a happy idea. She soon not only had all that her nimble fingers could do, but the business grew until she has now in her employ 100 other women engaged in decorating fish hooks with feathers. She has the usual struggle with the labor of Europe and finds that the protection of 35 per cent on foreign files is not enough. Her representative, Mr. Davidson, of Oshkosh, sympathizes with her, and is trying to get the Ways and Means Committee to increase the duty on the foreign files.

ANALYZING THE RETURNS.

The official returns are now in, and are being dissected by busy pencils. The first astonishing feature is that although there was an increase of 1,341,531 in the total vote over that of the past Presidential election, Mr. Taft only received 17,000 votes more than Roosevelt's wonderful plurality, and that Bryan received less than he did at either of the previous times he was running. Bryan's total vote at each time he has been a candidate is as follows:

1896..... 6,503,165
1900..... 6,358,182
1904..... 6,269,173
Including Oklahoma, which cast its first Presidential vote this year, still Mr. Bryan received only 6,358,182 votes. The meaning of this would seem to be that the bigger part of the Democratic vote which went over to Roosevelt in 1904 also voted for Taft. The greater part of the new votes went over to him also. This seems to be confirmed by the fact that Bryan ran behind the Democratic candidates for Governor in 24 States, and in five States which were carried by Taft the Democratic candidates for Governor were elected. Only in six States did Bryan run ahead of the Democratic candidate for Governor, and in every one of these local conditions were strongly adverse to the Democratic candidate, and he suffered from faction fights in his own party.

The six States in which Bryan ran ahead of the head of the Democratic ticket were:

State	Bryan, for governor, ahead.	Dem. vote, for governor, ahead.
Iowa.....	209,771	196,668
Missouri.....	346,574	327,808
S. Carolina.....	43,491	43,986
Texas.....	217,167	186,329
Washington.....	58,283	53,126
Wisconsin.....	166,891	156,519
Total.....	1,072,736	1,072,736

The States in which he ran behind the Democratic State ticket were:

State	Bryan, for governor, ahead.	Dem. vote, for governor, ahead.
Colorado.....	126,641	130,251
Connecticut.....	68,161	82,128
Florida.....	31,104	33,036
Idaho.....	36,080	40,050
Illinois.....	43,491	43,986
Indiana.....	328,262	348,849
Kansas.....	161,209	162,385
Maine.....	25,580	26,075
Massachusetts.....	155,858	167,376
Michigan.....	174,212	209,284
Minnesota.....	109,295	174,081
Montana.....	29,421	32,196
Nebraska.....	121,088	122,960
N. Hampshire.....	43,491	43,986
New York.....	667,100	725,189
N. Carolina.....	126,927	145,102
N. Dakota.....	32,909	49,546
Ohio.....	502,721	522,569
Rhode Island.....	24,761	31,362
S. Dakota.....	40,266	44,837
Tennessee.....	126,641	130,251
Utah.....	43,491	43,986
Vermont.....	11,436	15,953
West Virginia.....	11,418	118,909
Total.....	5,258,565	5,258,565

Elected Democratic Governor.
The States not mentioned did not have any candidates for Governor, and consequently there can be no comparison, but Bryan lost from his former strength in the 30 States mentioned, 470,726 votes. His vote fell off astonishingly in the solid South, where it was 159,900 less than eight years ago. The heaviest defection from him was in Virginia, where his vote fell off 63,000, and in Texas, where it slumped 59,000. Alabama came next with 23,000 loss, and North Carolina 21,000. He only gained in South Carolina 15,000, Mississippi 12,000, and in Louisiana 10,000.

The following table shows the total vote for all the candidates:

Candidate	Vote
Taft (Republican).....	7,637,676
Bryan (Democrat).....	6,358,182
Chas. (Prohibition).....	447,621
Chas. (Prohibition).....	241,222
Higgin (Independence).....	32,186
Wilson (Populist).....	33,871
Gitau (Socialist Labor).....	16,421
Total for all candidates.....	14,852,229

This table shows that the Republican, Democratic, and Socialist Parties all increased their vote over four years ago, but the Prohibition, Populist, and Socialist Labor Parties showed strong decreases. The Populists suffered the astonishing loss of 32,312 votes less than the same candidate received in 1904.

DEATH OF MAJ. GEO. M. LAUGHLIN.

Maj. George McCully Laughlin, one of the three surviving members of the second generation of "Pittsburg Steel" Laughs, died at his palatial home in Pittsburg, Friday evening, Dec. 11, after a long battle with pneumonia. He had celebrated his 66th birthday only a few weeks before. The Laughs were old Scotch-Irish stock, and for three generations have been prominent among Pittsburg's steel manufacturers. Maj. Laughlin left his studies in Washington and Jefferson College to enlist in the 155th Pa., receiving a commission as Second Lieutenant. He was in a little while in command of his company, which he led through many of the fiercest battles of the war. His last duty was on the staff of Maj.-Gen. Charles Griffin, commanding the Fifth Corps. As such, Capt. Laughlin helped to carry out the terms of surrender at Appomattox. He was brevetted Major for distinguished gallantry at the Quaker Road. In consideration of this, his college bestowed on him the degree of Master of Arts, the same as if he had completed his course. Immediately upon being mustered out, Maj. Laughlin entered the firm of Jones & Laughlin, which was then one of the leading manufacturers of steel, and he remained in it until his death. He made a partial retirement as vice chairman in 1900, to gain leisure to devote himself to matters of culture and public benefit. He was a charitable man, and unostentatiously liberal in his generosity. He was particularly liberal to his alma mater, Washington and Jefferson College, and altogether gave away millions of dollars. Besides being an active member of the G. A. R. and his regimental association, he belonged to the Loyal Legion, Sons of the Revolution, the leading clubs and National Art Club of New York, and other literary and artistic organizations. He is survived by three children, two of whom continue in the steel business, and the third is Charge d'Affairs at Athens.

REAL REFORMERS.

Judge Kunkel and the trial jury of Dauphin County, Pa., have proved themselves real reformers worth any number of burning generalities and hot-air generalizers. It must be admitted, however, that the vociferations for reform have had great weight in bringing about the decisive act of the Dauphin County Court. Four of the chief crafters in that monumental scandal, the Penn's Vanita State House, have been condemned as common, vulgar thieves and sentenced to two years' ordinary imprisonment at hard labor with a fine of \$500 each. These men were the most prominent and influential in the ring which robbed the State, and it is startling, as well as comforting, to see how little respect justice has had for high official and social rank. The first of the convicts is John H. Sanderson, a prominent Philadelphia and a contractor for the furniture. The next is James M. Shumaker, of Johnstown, the Superintendent of the Board of Public Buildings and Grounds. The third is no less than William P. Snyder, the Auditor-General of the State, and the fourth William L. Mathews, of Media, the State Treasurer. These men were convicted of a comparatively small fraud of \$19,308 in a contract for wooden furniture. The action is particularly gratifying as it gives an earnest of the vigor and thoroughness with which the investigation and condemnation will go on of those who are involved in the still larger steals perpetrated upon the public. The spectacle of these men who have heretofore been of such power in Pennsylvania politics and society wearing the common prison garb and taking the place which might be rightfully theirs and good government in Pennsylvania. Nowhere in the country was such a severe and salutary lesson so much needed. Pennsylvania politics has for years reeked with scandals and it seemed as if there was no limit to the effrontery of men in prominent positions in their frauds upon the people. But now a sharp turn has been taken, and dishonesty will become quite as unpopular as it has hitherto been successful. Pennsylvania and the whole country are to be congratulated.

The American flying machine is still ahead of all others. Wilbur Wright made a record in France last week which breaks all others in the world and is a demonstration of the future usefulness of the aeroplane. He remained in the air one hour, 53 minutes and 59 seconds, which is nearly 51 minutes longer than his best previous record, and during which time he went nearly 60 miles. This demonstrates the capacity of the aeroplane for sustained flight, since, if it can remain in the air two hours and go 60 miles it can be made to remain up 20 hours and go 1,000 miles. Of course, this proof of ability to fly long distances is far from being evidence that the aeroplane can ever be made a common and ordinary method of travel. It is not likely to supersede the rail or vessel. The economy of the thing is against it, since much of the power of the machine must always be expended in merely keeping it aloft. On a railroad the engine has the solid earth to push against and the solid earth to bear the weight of the load. With a little difference it is the same with a vessel on the water. In the air the propeller has to sustain the machine by an immense amount of force expended in pushing against a very yielding medium and merely to keep the aeroplane aloft. While the machine may be said to go in an air line from here to Chicago, or elsewhere, and thus have a shorter distance to travel than the locomotive, which runs around hills, yet there will be deflections on account of air currents and other influences which will make the path quite as serpentine as by the locomotive or the vessel.

Col. Maurice M. Kaighn, of Salt Lake City, writes, under date of Dec. 9, that the Commander-in-Chief and staff will be there Dec. 14-18 to look over the situation. The city and State authorities, and particularly the Commercial Club of Salt Lake City, which represents all the business interests of the State and city, are thoroughly aroused on the subject of the National Encampment, and are doing everything to make it a success.

FREE HIDES AND SHOES.

The following is the kind of a letter we like to receive: "It is temperate, reasoning, and full of accurate information, from which to study the knotty problem of Tariff Revision."

Editor National Tribune: In your editorial in last week's issue of The National Tribune you speak of the "Shoe Trust" as the chief beneficiary of the proposed reduction of the duty on hides. This is evidently a slip up on your part, as shoe manufacturing in this country is one of the few big industries that has not been controlled by a corporation or trust. The machinery used in manufacturing is controlled by the United Shoe Machinery Company. The shoe makers, who are the manufacturers of the shoe, are not on each machine in use, the cost of which is not small item in the cost of the shoe. As the shoe makers are not on each machine in use, the cost of the shoe is not small item in the cost of the shoe. As the shoe makers are not on each machine in use, the cost of the shoe is not small item in the cost of the shoe.

While it is an open question whether remitting the present duty of 15 per cent would lessen the price of hides, owing to control of the hide market by the packers, both here and in South American countries, it will make no difference to the farmer or stock raiser, as they do not share the enhanced price the packers pay on the tanner, who with the shoe manufacturer, is obliged to cut the corners on quality to get out even, and in the final analysis the tanner, who sells the hides to the packer, and the consumer shake the tree and the packer picks up the apples.—R. P. Northrop, Tannery, Md.

There are several highly important points raised in this communication, each of which deserves special study. The first is that the inventors and manufacturers of shoe-making machinery take a pretty heavy toll on the shoemakers. This is not so important as it seems at first reading, however. No shoemaker buys or uses a machine except because it is much more economical than hand labor, and he really has not much cause of complaint if the inventors and makers of machinery insist on having a share of his savings. Next, as all are treated alike, his competitors have no advantage over him, and as the machines will do the work faster than the "pauper labor" of Europe, the markets of the world are open to him as far as that is concerned.

Next, in spite of the fact that our correspondent asserts that a large part of the shoe-making is still on an independent basis, outside of any combination, yet it is still true that the greater economies of manufacturing on a large scale are rapidly concentrating the business into fewer and fewer establishments. This is shown by the census. In 1890 there were about 2,000 factories of considerable size in the United States engaged in making boots and shoes. Twenty years later, in spite of the great increase in population and consequently in the market, the number of factories had decreased to 1,600, while the capital invested had approximately tripled. In 1880 it was \$42,944,928, while it was \$101,795,232 in 1900.

The Canadians discovered to their loss the superior advantages of the great American factories. The Canadians, ambitious of making themselves independent, and keeping their money at home, have made strenuous efforts to build up Canadian shoe factories. They have bought the best American machines, have cheaper labor and hides than in the United States, but yet find that competing with American shoes is a hard and a losing struggle. The most important point raised by our correspondent, and which seems most difficult of solution, is the absolute control of the hide market by the packers. He thinks that, in some way that he does not explain, the slaughterers and packers have gotten full control not only of the hide supply of this country, but of the other chief sources—South America. They decide arbitrarily how much they will pay the farmers for cattle, and how much they will charge the tanners for leather. This is difficult to believe, but may be so. If true, then free hides will benefit neither farmers, tanners, nor shoemakers. It will only add the 15 per cent duty and we are now collecting on imported hides to the already swollen gains of the hide trust.

This is a point on which the Ways and Means Committee should take expert testimony, and push the probe to the heart of the matter.

A GRATEFUL WIDOW.

While it is all right and proper to laugh at the blunders in spelling and grammar of men and women who have had ample opportunities to acquire an education, this is cruelly unjust when the efforts to express themselves are made by simple-hearted men and women, whose hard lives have given them little opportunity to acquire the necessities of orthography and composition. Then the mistakes in spelling and grammar become pathetic. They speak of the hard, care-filled life of the writer, and every letter is eloquent of struggle. Not the least of these struggles is to properly express that which is felt by the writer, but the uneducated writer that has a little more education. Of this character is a letter recently received by the Commissioner of Pensions, and whose every letter and line expresses the supreme gratitude of the writer laboring with the unaccustomed pen to convey that which is in her heart. We give it with spelling and punctuation exact. It is not something to jeer over, but to start the tears in the eyes of every properly sympathetic person:

dear sir I got my Pension Papers All right. I do thank you with all my heart I cant thank you enough for what you have done for me long cant express my thanks I hope god will bless you All the days of your life time I never should have got it if you didnt for me and I do pray you as will bless you enough I do wish you all the comfort that you can ingory and good health Peace and happiness I am now by me a little home as I have one of my one and a somebodye the rest of my days ma god bless you

THE EX-PRISONERS OF WAR.

Chairman Sulloway, of the House Committee on Invalid Pensions, regards the Prisoners of War Bill as a claim and not a pension, and, therefore, is disposed to send it to the War Claims Committee. He made known this disposition at the visit of the Prisoners of War Committee, and his view was ably combated by President Harry White. Gen. White, who served two terms in Congress and has been for 20 years Presiding Judge on the Pennsylvania bench, showed himself quite as familiar with Congressional practices and the legal view of the matter as Chairman Sulloway. In his address before the Committee he showed clearly that the Prisoners of War Bill could not be considered as a claim, as the ex-prisoners had no legal claim upon the Government. The bill was in the nature of a "benevolence" and came under precisely the same classification as pensions generally. It was something for Congress to grant, not as a matter of right, but as a matter of justice and gratitude, and, therefore, clearly within the province of the Invalid Pensions Committee. This view of it will be strongly supported by Representatives Ansherry, O.; Welles, Wis.; Holliday, Ind., and others. Mr. Ansherry will make a motion at the regular meeting of the Committee early in January to report the bill to the House, and there will be a test of strength as to whether this will be done.

THE SARAGOSSA SEA.

Our geographers are threatened with the loss of a well-known feature in the disappearance of the Saragossa Sea, which has always had quite a little space in the descriptions and has figured in many stories of voyages. The sea is a broad expanse of still water, between great currents, and in this calm spot collects much of the wreckage of the Atlantic. The still water has an area of nearly the size of continental Europe, and is elliptical in form. In addition to the wreckage, which is carried to it by the great currents, is a mass of seaweeds which floats on the surface. It lies between parallels 20 and 35 North, and between longitude 30 and 60 West. The captain of a British vessel who recently arrived at Norfolk, Va., says that for some reason, all the seaweed and wreckage has disappeared from this great expanse and it is now clear water, with nothing to indicate its borders.

THE ENCAMPMENT AT SALT LAKE CITY.

Col. Frank M. Storratt is in Salt Lake City helping awaken a strong interest in the coming National Encampment. He tells the people there that they may expect 75,000 visitors, who will leave at least \$750,000 behind them. He believes that the railroads will grant a rate approximating one cent a mile. No organization that visits the city pays it as well as the G. A. R. Not only do they take rooms for a longer time, but they buy much to take home with them. If every visitor leaves an average of \$10, and it is impossible to see how he can get along with less, the aggregate will be three-quarters of a million dollars.

Veterans everywhere will be startled to learn of the death of Maj. Joseph W. Wham, Paymaster, U. S. A., retired, who dropped dead on the morning of Dec. 21, on a street corner in Washington. The cause was cerebral hemorrhage. Maj. Wham had a special record. He was one of the substantial young farmer boys who enlisted at the first call of the President for volunteers, in the 21st Ill. These were all clean-living, well-bred boys, and they were so disgusted with their Colonel getting drunk that they demanded of the Governor another head for their regiment and the Governor responded by giving the commission to an ex-Captain of the Regular Army who was then doing duty in his office as a sort of a head clerk. This ex-Captain was named U. S. Grant, and he commanded the regiment with great ability until he was commissioned a Brigadier-General. Maj. Wham went thru the war in the 21st Ill., and was highly commended for gallantry, especially at Franklin. Gen. Grant, who never forgot the members of his first regiment, appointed him Paymaster in the Army. Maj. Wham was a grand man, devoted to principle and to his comrades who had stood by him in the defence of principle.

Nothing has gone up by such leaps and bounds as our consumption of sugar. Only a few years ago, it was regarded as astonishing that we consumed a pound of sugar per capita per week, the little left us behind Great Britain, which then got away with about 60 pounds per head per annum. This again was far ahead of any other country in the civilized world. In such countries as Russia and Austria, the people do not eat more than a pound of sugar a month. Now, the Census Bureau informs us that every American citizen eats about half his weight in sugar every year, or, say, 75 pounds. This would be 6 1/2 pounds a month, or more than a pound and a half a week. At an average retail price of 5 1/2 cents a pound, the people pay the enormous sum of \$372,000,000 a year for sugar, or more than \$1,000,000 a day. We only produce 21 3/10 per cent of this at home, and get but 17 1/10 per cent from our insular possessions. For the first time last year the best sugar production in this country exceeded the cane sugar product. In fact, the best sugar nearly doubled that of the cane sugar, being 967,000,000 pounds for beets to only 544,000,000 pounds for cane.

The latest fad upon which the doctors are going to extremes is "Light Starvation." Dr. J. Frank Wallace, Norris-town, Pa., and a physician of much prominence, claims that many if not the larger proportion of the ills to which humanity is subject are caused by a lack of sufficient sunlight. He says that "light starvation" causes criminality, and that it is directly the influence which brings about tuberculosis, skin diseases, neuritis, pneumonia, anemia, nervous disorders, and thirst for drink. He gives the history of a thousand cases directly traceable to lack of light, and which were cured by a proper treatment of sun rays.

POPULAR VOTE FOR PRESIDENT.

STATES.	Rep.	Dem.	So.	Ind. Dem.	So. L.	Prob.	Pop's P.
Alabama.....	86,293	74,374	1,399	495	.....	666	1,569
Arkansas.....	67,791	55,664	5,760	313	.....	1,151	1,131
California.....	214,898	127,492	29,669	4,876	.....	11,770	.....
Colorado.....	148,709	184,641	7,860	No vote	.....	6,328	.....
Connecticut.....	113,016	93,181	4,005	659	.....	2,608	.....
Delaware.....	25,014	39,971	240	38	.....	877	.....
Florida.....	106,564	81,104	3,741	533	.....	1,856	1,948
Georgia.....	41,892	72,419	1,494	77	.....	1,059	16,933
Idaho.....	59,606	26,080	6,243	229	.....	1,740	.....
Illinois.....	629,558	450,819	24,600	7,548	1,675	29,938	601
Indiana.....	348,983	338,262	13,476	614	643	18,045	1,199
Iowa.....	275,210	200,771	8,267	464	.....	9,627	251
Kansas.....	197,166	161,209	12,420	301	.....	5,022	.....
Kentucky.....	235,384	244,242	4,037	77	342	5,868	334
Louisiana.....	8,958	65,868	2,538	82	.....	1,823	.....
Maine.....	67,190	35,842	1,494	663	.....	2,802	.....
Maryland.....	116,513	115,908	2,223	495	.....	4,072	.....
Massachusetts.....	257,444	165,688	10,390	19,175	962	4,072	.....
Michigan.....	323,786	235,087	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Minnesota.....	156,275	109,395	14,994	420	.....	10,320	.....
Mississippi.....	4,463	64,250	1,048	297	887	4,232	1,195
Missouri.....	347,303	346,574	15,898	420	.....	1,500	.....
Montana.....	32,375	29,421	6,000	1,300	.....	.....	.....
Nebraska.....	127,108	131,088	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nevada.....	10,214	10,455	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New Hampshire.....	53,144	33,655	1,299	584	.....	905	.....
New Jersey.....	265,298	182,582	10,349	2,916	1,196	4,920	.....
New Mexico.....	170,070	667,100	38,448	35,795	3,677	23,654	.....
North Carolina.....	114,038	136,927	.....	.....	.....	1,468	.....
North Dakota.....	67,771	38,909	3,465	88	.....	721	11,408
Ohio.....	672,812	502,721	33,796	489	11,409	148	.....
Oklahoma.....	110,555	122,406	31,779	244	.....	.....	84
Oregon.....	62,890	72,042	2,439	228	.....	1,225	36,694
Pennsylvania.....	745,779	448,785	33,913	1,067	1,222	36,694	.....
Rhode Island.....	43,809	24,761	1,295	814	207	996	.....
South Carolina.....	3,847	65,289	97	45	.....	.....	.....
South Dakota.....	39,552	11,496	2,868	223	.....	260	1,911
Tennessee.....	118,287	126,320	1,878	115	179	1,634	994
Texas.....	65,686	271,147	7,870	115	.....	.....	.....
Vermont.....	61,755	42,161	4,590	87	.....	789	.....
Virginia.....	39,552	11,496	.....	894	.....	.....	.....
Washington.....	52,674	82,956	106	51	25	1,108	266
West Virginia.....	106,062	58,293	14,177	248	.....	.....	.....
Wisconsin.....	127,108	117,424	14,994	420	.....	9,627	.....
Wyoming.....	248,683	166,931	27,992	.....	.....	4,600	.....
.....	20,626	14,868	1,715	64	.....	666	.....
Totals.....	7,653,688	6,450,690	401,506	82,339	11,993	238,014	89,968